THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Losses of Super Bazars

502. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:
SARDAR GURCHARAN SINGH TOHRA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Super Bazars, a chain of consumer stores, have been closed down permanently;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the accumulated losses of Super Bazars at the time of closure;

(d) whether Government propose to conduct any inquiry to point and fix responsibility on persons responsible for huge losses; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) to (c) The Cooperative Store Ltd. (Super Bazar) registered under Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act 1984, (MSCS Act 1984) started incurring loss from 1996-1997 which mounted in subsequent years. The accumulated loss has reached the level of Rs. 39.28 crores (unaudited) by the end of 2000-2001. The liabilities of Super Bazar include besides the staff salary due from April, 2001, suppliers dues of about Rs. 38.50 lakhs, unpaid dividend of Rs. 23.32 lakhs, vehicle loan of Rs. 34.00 lakhs, cash credit from Syndicate Bank of Rs. 144.21 lakhs. Other liabilities of Rs. 265.25 lakhs and Government loan of Rs. 2186.64 lakhs. The Store has no resources for meeting these liabilities.

The severe financial constraints faced by Super Bazar have very adversely affected the overall functioning of the Store in terms of administration, commercial operations and supply chain management resulting in rapid deterioration. Considering all factors and the present circumstances of Super Bazar, the Central Registrar of Cooperatives Societies have been requested to take action for the winding up of the Super Bazar under the provisions of Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act 1984.

(d) and (e) An inquiry under Section 69 and 73 of MSCS Act 1984 was instituted by Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies into the affairs of

Super Bazar. On the basis of the findings of inquiry report, the Central RCS by exercising his power under section 73 (2) of MSCS Act has established that Shri S.S. Dhuri the then Chairman of Super Bazar was responsible for the loss and ordered the recovery of the amount of Rs. 24,45,780.00 alongwith an interest @ 15% per annum w.e.f. January, 1999 from him in accordance with the law. Apart from Shri Dhuri, Shri Surender Gandhi, the then Vice-Chairman and Shri R.P. Maheshwary, the then member of the Board of Directors were also held responsible for causing loss alongwith the ex-Chairman Shri S.S. Dhuri. They have been jointly and severally held responsible to make good the loss of Rs. 24,45,780.00 along with the interest @ 15% p.a. w.e.f. January, 1999. Accordingly, the Super Bazar has been directed by Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies to initiate recovery proceedings against the above mentioned persons in accordance with law.

Protest against American war

503. SHRI C.O. POULOSE : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that anti-war protest actions are taking place all over the world against the U.S. war against Afghanistan and even the peace loving Americans too are coming out in thousands to oppose the imperialist chauvinism of their rulers; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) Government has seen reports of some instances of protests against the military operations targeted at the Al Qaida network and the Taliban in Afghanistan.

(b) Government shares the widely held belief in the international community that the current campaign against the Al Qaida network and the Taliban in Afghanistan is an important step in a global war against terrorism and its sponsors everywhere in the world.

Training Camps in PoK and Pakistan

504. DR. KARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether following the blasts in America and the US declaration of war against global terrorism, Government have furnished a list of terrorists training camps and hide-outs in Pak-occupied-Kashmir and Pakistan, to the US Government;